

To: Bowie City Council
From: Joint Committee to Review Recreational Fees
Date: January 6, 2010
Re: Request for Clarification of City Policies

The City Council has requested that the Financial Advisory Committee and the Community Recreation Committee work together to review the user fees charged at various Bowie recreational facilities/programs to ascertain whether non-resident fees are being appropriately charged; and to make recommendations to the City Council for updates and/or improvements to the existing fee structure.

The joint committee is currently reviewing the recreational fees charged at the Ice Arena, City Gymnasium, Picnic and Skate Park Permits, and Ball/Athletic Field fees. In order to conduct this inquiry, the committee is asking for specific direction and a preliminary clarification from the City Council on the following points:

QUESTION #1: Does the City Council have any existing policies or philosophies regarding the percentage of taxpayer contribution to any of the recreational facilities, such as 10%, 20% or 30%? Recent available data is:

A. Ice Arena:

	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Direct Costs</u>	<u>% Covered By Taxpayers</u>
FY08 (actual)	\$666,800	\$862,505	22.7%
FY09 (actual)	646,000	929,800	30.5%
FY10 (budget)	663,000	894,600	25.9%

B. City Gymnasium:

	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Direct Costs</u>	<u>% Covered By Taxpayers</u>
FY08 (actual)	\$144,598	\$474,709	69.6%
FY09 (actual)	148,400	504,600	70.6%
FY10 (budget)	151,700	508,500	70.2%

C. Ball/Athletic Field Fees:

The calculation of current fees as a percentage of direct costs could not be computed because the direct costs for providing these services are not separately identified.

D. Picnic and Skate Park Permits:

The calculation of current fees as a percentage of direct costs could not be computed because the direct costs for providing these services are not separately identified.

QUESTION #2: Does the City Council have any existing policies or philosophies regarding the fees that should be charged to non-residents? For instance, in setting non-resident fees, is there a policy that the non-resident fees should be high enough that Bowie City taxpayers are not underwriting the cost of providing recreational services to non-residents? Recent available data is:

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Non-Residential</u>	<u>Residential %</u>
A. Ice Arena:			
Group Lessons	3,797 people	4,694 people	44.7%
Summer Camp	979 people	1,269 people	43.5%
Birthday Parties	167 people	343 people	32.7%
Frequent Skater Passes	171 people	332 people	34.1%
B. Gymnasium:			
Although a fee schedule is in place for use of the facility by outside residents and organizations, 95% of court rental time is reserved by groups that meet the 60% residency requirement. To determine residency, each group must submit a current roster, including names and addresses of each team member. CYO, BBGC, and SBBGC are exempt from this practice.			
C. Ball/Athletic Field Fees:			
2009 Bowie Field Allocations	11,662 hours	3,836 hours	75.3%
2008 Bowie Field Allocations	14,544	3,335	82.4%
D. Picnic and Skate Park Permits:			
Group Picnics	410 permits	110 permits	78.8%
Total Skate Park Fees	\$6,768	\$23,434	22.4%

QUESTION #3: If the City Council does not currently have policies regarding recreational fees and non-resident fees, would it be appropriate for this joint committee to make specific recommendations for future policies?